

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Rhynchospora compressa - flat-fruit beakrush Sedge Family (Cyperaceae)

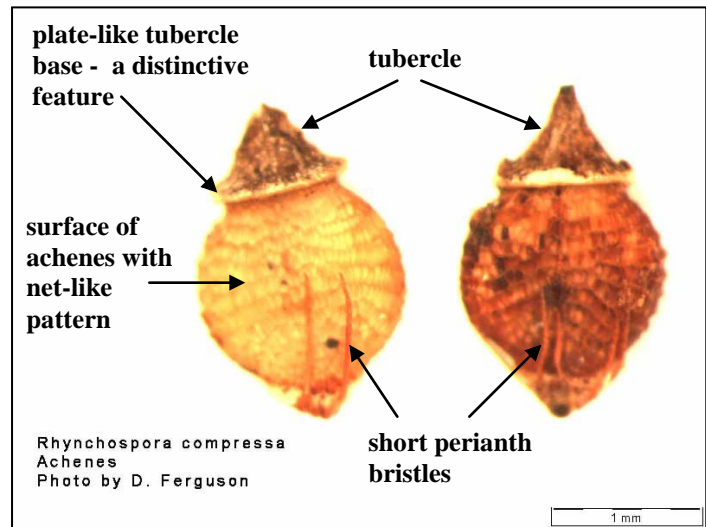
Rarity Rank: S2/G4

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range: AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, SC

Recognition:

- Cespitose perennial from a caudex, stems erect and stiff, to 1 m tall
- Lower stems leafy, fertile stems with sparse foliage
- Inflorescence of erect terminal and long-stalked axillary cymes
- Fruit an achene about 1.5 mm long, with the faces flat or sunken centrally (versus trigonous or bulging); achene with transverse ridges or reticulation
- Tubercle of fruit bearing a circular, flat, plate-like base, extending outward over the narrowed achene summit



Fruits of *Rhynchospora compressa*.
Photo by Diane Ferguson, LSU Herbarium.

Flowering/Fruiting Time: May to June

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

OBL – almost always in wetlands

Habitat: Longleaf pine flatwoods savannas.

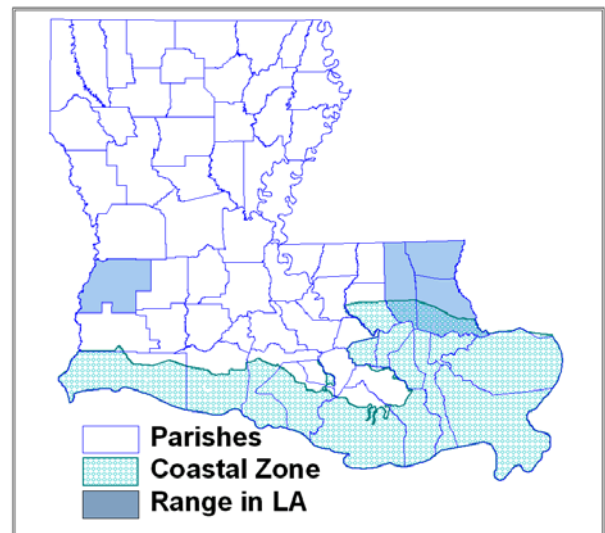
Threats:

- Residential or commercial development
- Conversion to slash or loblolly pine plantations
- Hydrological alterations
- Soil damage from timber harvesting and planting activities (eg. bedding)
- Fire exclusion or inappropriate fire regime

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Use of growing season prescribed fire (April-June) at a frequency of every 1 to 3 years
- Thinning over densely-stocked stands (only during very dry conditions)
- No bedding, plowed fire lines or other soil disturbance that may alter natural water flow patterns

LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain, Calcasieu, Sabine



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Specimen of *Rhynchospora compressa*. Courtesy of LSU Herbarium.

References:

- Clewell, A. F. 1985. Guide to the vascular plants of the Florida Panhandle. University Presses of Florida, Florida State University Press, Tallahassee. 605 pp.
- Godfrey, R. K. and J. W. Wooten. 1981. Aquatic and wetland plants of the southeastern United States: monocotyledons. University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA. 712 pp.
- USDA, NRCS. 2008. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

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For more information, please visit our Web pages at

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